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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.		
10/518,423	12/17/2004	Richard Richley	TDYNE-305	6759		
2387	7590	04/27/2009	EXAMINER			
Olson & Cepuritis, LTD. 20 NORTH WACKER DRIVE 36TH FLOOR CHICAGO, IL 60606				STEWART, ALVIN J		
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER				
3774						
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE				
04/27/2009		PAPER				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/518,423	RICHLEY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alvin J. Stewart	3774	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2009.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 10-12, 15 and 36 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 10-12, 15 and 36 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 17 December 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 01/22/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Examiner wants to clarify a language made by the previous office action. The Examiner mentions in the previous office action that the Pisharodi reference resembles a cylinder. The Examiner wants to clarify that the Pisharodi implant does not resemble a cylinder, the Pisharodi implant is a cylinder as mentioned in col. 4, lines 1 & 2. For the above reasons the Examiner believes that the arguments with respect to the shape of the implant are moot.

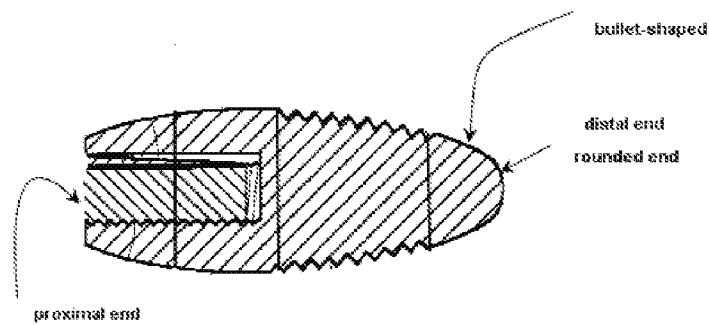
Regarding the interpretation by the examiner of cage (88). Element 88 as the cage was a typing error and the Examiner meant element 68. The reference figures clearly disclose the whole cylindrical implant as element 68 and not 88.

Regarding the Applicant's argument with respect to the anchors, the Examiner disagrees with the Applicant's remarks because the threaded surface of the cage 46 or 96 are used to engage with the inner walls of the vertebral bodies (see col. 4, lines 36-40).

The Examiner interpreted the peaks of the threaded surface as the spikes claimed in claims 15 and 36.

Regarding the bullet distal end, the Examiner does not understand why the Applicant's representative is arguing the bullet-shaped distal end because the implant is clearly disclosing a distal end having a rounded end. However, the Examiner wants to clarify that bullets can have any configuration, even the end can have a square end. If the Applicant's representative wants to

positively claim a specific shape the Applicant's representative has to positively claim the wanted shape not only claiming a bullet shape.



NOTE: the Applicant's representative didn't make any comments with respect to the Michelson reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 10-12, 15 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pisharodi US Patent 6,093,207.

Pisharodi discloses a vertebral implant comprising a cage (88) having a distal end and an open proximal end (92), an anchor (96), a bore (82), and a key hole (80 & 84). The cage is defined by a cylindrical body and helically external threads. Additionally the distal end has a bullet shape.

Claims 10-12, 15 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Michelson US Patent 6,123,705.

Michelson discloses a vertebral implant comprising a cage (100) having a distal end and an open proximal end (see figure 8), an anchor (120), a bore (see figure 8), and a key hole (134 or 142). The cage is defined by a cylindrical body and helically external threads (see different embodiment disclosing a helical thread). Additionally the distal end has a bullet shape.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin J. Stewart whose telephone number is 571-272-4760. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00AM-5:30PM(1 Friday B-week off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Isabella can be reached on 571-272-4749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alvin J Stewart/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3774

March 14, 2009.